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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, at 12 noon.

Senate

MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, strengthen our Senators for today's challenges. Empower them with the courage of obedience so that in doing Your will they will find peace. Give them such trust in You that they may experience setbacks without ever doubting Your providential leading. In all of their strivings, energize them with perseverance to bring each task to its appointed end. Lord, as they try to make good decisions, give them the light to see what they ought to do and the resolve to do it. May they ride out the storms of difficulties and discouragement with the knowledge that You will sustain them.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 14, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012—Motion to Proceed

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 396, H.R. 2072.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to calendar No. 396, H.R. 2072, a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are now on the motion to proceed to the Ex-Im

Bank bill. We are working on an agreement to begin consideration of the bill. I don't know if we can reach that, but we are trying.

At 4:30 today the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider two U.S. district judges from Maryland and Illinois. At 5:30 there will be up to three rollcall votes. The first two will be on confirmation of George Levi Russell and John J. Tharp, and the third will be on cloture on the motion to proceed to the Ex-Im Bank bill.

There was a time when legislation that would reduce the deficit and support hundreds of thousands of jobs would fly through the Senate with bipartisan support but not so anymore. Instead, a worthy measure that would support 300,000 American jobs—the Export-Import Bank—may stall in the Senate this evening. The holdup is more Republican obstructionism.

Tonight the Senate will vote on whether to end the filibuster of reauthorization of this most important legislation. The bank helps American companies grow and sell their products overseas. Last year this bank financed 3,600 private companies and added almost 300,000 jobs in more than 2,000 American communities.

The last time the Senate considered this in legislation, it was offered by a Republican Senator and it passed by unanimous consent. What that means is it comes to the floor, sponsored by a Republican, and everybody agrees and we don't even have a vote here. It is done by unanimous consent. So it is unfortunate that I had to file cloture again. I have filed cloture, cloture, cloture on so many different things. We

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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